

progress and it is impossible to fund the doubling goal under the caps. Again, I urge my colleagues on the Budget Committee to consider alternative budget offsets that might be used and not counted under the budget caps, such as the revenues from tobacco use, a natural, related and logical step to allow some of these revenues if available to be used by the NIH for health research. This would be the best form of compensation to the victims of tobacco, if we were able to cure cancer or heart disease from tobacco revenues, because if we merely use these tobacco funds to compensate the States and the Federal Government for Medicaid and Medicare costs, just paying over and over for the same treatments and interventions without progress through health research for more effective care, we will never have the funds needed for all these health care treatments. Only progress through health research will truly reduce the costs of these programs. Save Medicare and Medicaid by using budget offsets to increase health research at the NIH. Senator DOMENICI has called for protecting Medicare through use of the tobacco revenues in the Senate Budget Resolution, but we can only insure that result through increased health research funding at the NIH from tobacco revenues.

I want to continue to work with my colleagues on the House Budget Committee, NIH Authorizing Committee, and Appropriators to achieve these goals from some of the funding sources that I have discussed.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Chairman, I want to begin by commending Chairman KASICH for his leadership and I concur with him that our Federal Government is still too big, too bloated, and too tax heavy. The surplus hasn't even hit the Treasury and we have passed the largest transportation bill in American history—breaking our budget caps by tens of billions of dollars. If this is any indication, we need the Kasich budget now more than ever!

Far from being "radical," the Kasich budget recognizes that fiscal discipline is not a sometimes thing, it's an everyday thing. The modest savings in this plan are achievable, and they send a clear message that we are still serious about cutting Washington's budget to help the American family's budget.

Finally, I would like to clarify some misconceptions about tax cuts. As much as Congress and the President would like to think otherwise, the American taxpayers are primarily responsible for our current surplus. They are the ones working two jobs, taking risks, and investing in our economy . . . and they deserve a break. In this fiscal year alone, tax receipts are up by 11 percent, yet some of my friends would punish these Americans by maintaining the status quo. Remember Tax Freedom Day was May 10—later than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than the status quo. The American people deserve relief and they demand continued fiscal discipline in Washington.

I strongly urge a "yes" vote on the Kasich budget.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

□ 0130

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH) having assumed the chair,

Mr. GILCHREST, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 284) revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1998, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 1999, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003, had come to no resolution thereon.

INTRODUCTION OF DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION OF MFN FOR CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President notified Congress that he is seeking to grant Most Favored Nation trade status to Communist China.

Today I am introducing a resolution of disapproval, which, if passed, would deny MFN status for China.

My reasons are the same as they have been over the years, and that is that appeasing Communist China has failed to encourage more decent and more responsible behavior by that criminal dictatorship in Beijing.

Across the board, the policies of the government of China continue to be repugnant and dangerous.

The human rights violations continue unabated.

China's unfair trade practices are as implacable as ever.

And China's rogue foreign policy continues to lead the world to an ever more dangerous situation.

In fact, China's proliferation activities have contributed mightily to the new nuclear arms race we are seeing in South Asia.

Only the threat of a big stick will moderate this regime, and MFN is that stick.

I look forward to the debate over the next few weeks.

WISHING BILLIE "THE GODMOTHER" CARR GREETINGS ON THE OCCASION OF HER 70TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 70th birthday of a great American, Texan, and Democrat: Ms. Billie Carr. Please permit me to tell you a little bit about her. Her life is instructive.

Billie Carr is a native Houstonian. She attended the University of Houston and South Texas College. In 1954 she ran and was elected precinct chair in her home precinct. She still serves as precinct chair on the Harris County Democratic Party Committee.

Billie served on the state Democratic Executive Committee from 1964–1966. In 1972 she was elected to serve on the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and was elected in 1992 for her fifth term. She served on the Na-

tional Resolutions Committee from 1984–1988, the National Platform Committee 1983–1984, and the National Fairness Commission from 1984–1986. She was elected in August this year to serve on the DNC's National Rules Committee.

What's more, "the Godmother," as we call her, was elected by the Southern region to represent it on the Executive Committee of the DNC in 1988 and still serves to this day. Clearly, Billie Carr has almost no rival in her commitment to political activism.

Further, Carr has been the recipient of many fine awards. She received the prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt Award in 1986. In 1987, she sort of received her own award, if you will—the Harris County Democrats Billie Carr Lifetime Achievement Award. Carr received awards from the Texas Democratic Women in 1987 and a Star Award from the National Federation of Democratic Women. And, in 1994 the Texas Young Democrats gave her their Democrat of the Year Award.

In 1992 the Democratic Party had the 40th anniversary party for her 40 years of political activity. Every statewide official attended as well as then Presidential candidate Bill Clinton, who came for the convention, and spoke of his warm lifetime friendship with Billie.

Lastly, she is President of Billie Carr Associates and is the proud grandmother of two beautiful children.

In sum, Billie Carr's career began early and has lasted a virtual lifetime. From the start of her political involvement with Ralph Yarborough and Adlai Stevenson to the founding of Billie Carr Associates, she has displayed an amazing dedication to Democratic politics and public service. The awards and achievements you have earned in your life are truly breathtaking. Your record of accomplishments are an inspiration to us all. You certainly deserve to be called the Godmother of liberal democratic politics. Perhaps most significant, Mr. Speaker, she refused to take part in the despicable act and mindset of racial segregation when many chose to be passive or look the other way.

On behalf of the residents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I would like to offer you my heartfelt thanks for your continued efforts to serve our Houston community. Happy Birthday! Billie Carr.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 1:00 p.m. today and the balance of the week on account of attending her daughter's graduation.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 1:00 p.m. today, Thursday, June 4, 1998 on account of official business.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 12:30 p.m. today, June 4, 1998, and for the balance of the week on account of personal business.

Mr. MCGOVERN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today before 4:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 5:30 p.m. on account of personal business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 7:30 p.m. on account of personal reasons.